

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION'S REVISION OF  
MEDIA OWNERSHIP RULES

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H. Res. 218, a resolution that expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should not revise its media ownership rules without more extensive review and without a public comment period. The FCC is scheduled to announce their decision on June 2, 2003.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important resolution because the proposed media ownership rules will undoubtedly be a drastic rewrite that would place huge limits on what Americans hear on the radio, watch on television or read in the newspaper. We should invite more review and public comment on the consequences of these changes before the rule is implemented.

Among other things, these proposed rules would permit a television corporation to own a radio station and a newspaper in the same market. They would also increase the number of stations a television company can own from two to three. These rules will result in increased mergers activity and ultimately, in many markets, Americans will get all aspects of their news and information from one company.

The legislated goals of the FCC include fostering competition, local control and an array of voices. But these proposed rules go against the FCC's own objectives by allowing a massive concentration of power and putting local stations out of business. These rules would create homogenized programming.

The United States prides itself on diversity and freedom of the press. My constituents have expressed concern at the thought of one media outlet controlling all of the news and information they receive about their government, their fellow citizens and their culture.

I am hopeful that by June 2, 2003, FCC Chairman Michael Powell will hear the voices of Americans and postpone implementation of his rule so that he can hold public discussions and conduct a more extensive review.

TRIBUTE TO CHI CHI RODRIQUEZ

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to Mr. Juan "Chi Chi" Rodriguez, one of the great showmen in sports history. In a career that spans four decades, Chi Chi has won eight times on the PGA Tour and now boasts twenty-two Senior Tour victories. His colorful performances still make him a gallery favorite, while his shot-making skills have earned him the respect of his peers.

Chi Chi was born in 1935 in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico, and he grew up in the hot, dusty sugar cane fields of Rio Piedras, where he helped his father tend the fields. He began

caddying at the age of six and actually learned how to play golf with clubs fashioned out of Guava tree limbs and tin cans hammered into balls. At the age of 12, he shot a 67. He became known for his hand-eye coordination and imagination, skills that for more than forty years have helped him overcome all types of obstacles. But Chi Chi's talents extend beyond what he is able to do with a golf ball. From his matador routine to his good-natured impersonations of fellow competitors, Chi Chi is an entertainer at heart.

Mr. Speaker, what truly separates Chi Chi from his peers is that he has coupled his success on the golf course with a strong personal desire to make a positive impact. This has manifested itself in the countless hours he spends at the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation in Clearwater, Florida. This foundation serves as a safe haven for troubled and abused youngsters. Chi Chi's philosophy is simple; he wants kids to have a chance. Based on love and respect, the program builds confidence, instills discipline and provides positive educational experiences.

Clearly, Chi Chi Rodriguez is a champion golfer, but he is a greater champion in the lives of youths and the Hispanic community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chi Chi Rodriguez for his illustrious and distinguished career and for his extraordinary contributions to the Hispanic community and to young people in the United States.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS TO  
THE WINNERS OF THE "WHAT  
MAKES AMERICA GREAT" ESSAY  
CONTEST

**HON. RICHARD H. BAKER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 22, 2003*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate four outstanding students from the 6th district of Louisiana who won an essay contest titled "What Makes America Great."

As you know, Mr. Speaker, following the terrorism of September 11, when Americans were attacked for who we are, and at a time when young Americans are defending our freedoms on foreign soil, it is important to recall what America is all about and what we stand for. In an effort to remind us all of the greatness of our country, I turned to high school students in my district to draft essays and poetry that expresses their feelings of "What Makes America Great." I would now like to read the winning submissions to the members of Congress.

The honorable mention of the essay contest is Alexander Edelen who attends Bishop Sullivan High School in Baton Rouge and is in the 10th grade. Alexander writes:

What makes America great? The great diversity of cultures, religions, and people make the United States a unique melting pot. This diversity brings different voices with different views to the government, allowing the United States to prosper. There were many cultures that came to America, including the French, English, African and Spanish. Each culture brought its technology, religion, and livelihood to America. The blending of these cultures made the United States evolve into the America seen today. America also has many religious de-

nominations, such as Native Indian religions, and the Roman Catholic and Protestant Christian denominations. These varied beliefs give the United States a unique background for viewing the world from different perspectives. America's many cultures and religions have influenced the development of the United States, but it was the amazing cooperation of the people that held the United States together through good and bad times. The bravery, strength, wisdom, and willpower of the people have made life better for the United States and for the rest of the world. It was the people who chose this republican form of government, the people who saved the Union, the people who saved the world during the World Wars, and the people who now wish to see the end of terrorism. Is the United States a great place in which to live? Yes. In the United States of America, citizens and legal aliens are free to be diverse; it is this diversity that makes America a strong and proud nation.

Our third place winner from Denham Springs High School is Steven Sikes. Steven writes:

What makes America great is not its military might or the strength of its industry or even some kind of technological superiority. It is something less tangible but at the same time much more powerful that makes America great. It is the unconquerable spirit of its inhabitants that makes this country so special. The nature of this American spirit is demonstrated in revolutionary war slogans such as, "Give me liberty or give me death!" It is the belief that the personal freedoms of the individual are more important than anything else and should be fought for no matter what the cost. It is embodied in the nature of our government, which is unique in that it exists only as a tool for achieving the will of the American people and not for its own sake. Finally, the true nature of the American spirit is most evident in the courage and strength of the ordinary American citizen. The powerful and enduring American spirit is what makes this nation so incredible. Without it America would not be what it is today. It is what has enabled America to withstand all of the trials it has faced so far, and it is what will guide our country into a prosperous future.

Mallory Braud of East Ascension High School placed second with her poem America the Great:

Greatness comes in many forms  
Not just brains and brawn  
Like now in this time of war  
We keep on, keeping on  
United our nation stands  
Always proud and true  
We show our heroic pride  
Through the red, white, and blue  
Our strength is in our numbers  
We stand together now  
A band of faithful brothers  
Our freedom shows us how  
We live in peaceful harmony  
Unless we choose to fight  
We welcome all these strangers  
To try to do what's right  
We are too united to fail  
And too determined to fall  
We lend our helping hands  
So our nation may stand tall  
The people who all live here  
By chance, choice, or fate  
All come together to form  
America the Great.

Colleen Wesley wrote our first place essay and she attends Denham Springs High School. Colleen writes:

What makes America great? Is it the stock market or the government? Is it the culture